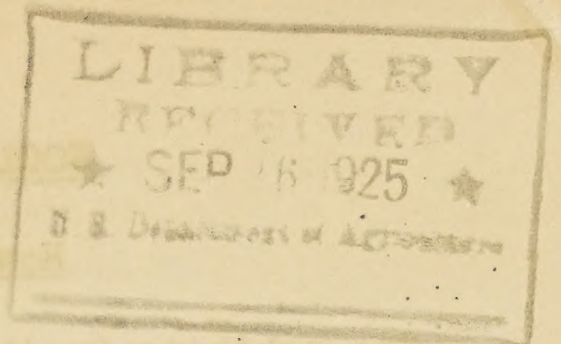


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

WOOL AND WARMTH

A booth exhibit showing fabrics and fleeces; methods of production and their profits; how to test cloth and other things of general interest to the average fair patron.

Specifications

Floor space - - - - - 13 ft. front, 8 ft.
Wall space - - - - - None. (deep.
Shipping weight - - - - - 960 lbs.
Electrical requirements - - None.

WOOL AND WARMTH

How It Looks

The exhibits in this demonstration booth are shown, for the most part, by real articles. For instance, the three men on the center section wear real cloth clothes made from different types of woolen goods. At the bottom of this section are to be found the materials used in testing cloth to determine if it is wool. This test is demonstrated several times a day by the attendant in charge of the exhibit.

The left section shows pictures of four operations or methods used in shearing sheep and taking care of the fleece. Samples of proper and improper kinds of twine used in tying up fleeces are shown at the bottom of the left section.

An interesting exhibit is shown on the right section. Actual fleeces showing the maximum and minimum weights (yields) for good and poor wool are shown together with the amounts of scoured wool and dirt and grease which they yielded. The value of a good and a poor fleece is also given for the fleeces on exhibition.

The booth is 13 feet across the front, 8 feet deep and 7 feet 4 inches high.

What It Tells

The exhibit furnishes information of interest to growers, manufacturers, and the public. Wool varies a great deal in fineness, length, strength, and manufacturing value. The selection and breeding of sheep govern in large measure the fineness and to quite an extent the length and spinning quality, while the feeding, care, and health of the sheep are of vital importance in the production of heavy, strong, lofty fleeces useful in the manufacture of warm, durable, and attractive garments, robes, and blankets.

When shearing sheep their fleeces should be dry and the work done on a clean, well-swept floor free from straw, chaff or litter of any kind. The fleece ought to be clipped close to the skin and the shearer

should avoid second cuttings of the same wool as fibers of good length are desirable. The next step is to roll and tie the fleece, wrapping the string first at right angles to the direction in which the fleece is rolled and second parallel to the direction in which it is rolled. One wrap each way is sufficient.

The fabrics shown on the center panel illustrate the suitings made from wool of half-blood fineness and overcoating made from wool of coarse grades. It will be noted that half-blood wool of good length is called "combing" wool. This is a trade term which indicates that the wool is of sufficient length to be combed in the manufacturing process. Wool of such length can be made into durable worsted as shown. The short wool from which the woolen suiting is made has the grade term "half-blood clothing." "Half-blood" indicates that the fineness is the same as that of the wool from which the worsted was made, while the word "clothing" indicates the wool is too short to be combed. Such wool is generally made into woolen or flannel goods; therefore, worsted is more durable and usually more popular than the woolen or flannel goods when the worsted and woolen are of equal weight and the wools from which they are made are of equal fineness, strength, and spinning quality.

On the basis of fineness, prices of wool are quoted by the following grades, which are named in the order of fineness: Fine, half-blood, three-eighths blood, quarter-blood, low quarter-blood, common, and braid. The word "blood" in connection with wool grade terms has no reference to the breeding of sheep but is used in connection with fractions to designate fineness. Fine and half-blood wool are produced by purebred and high-grade Merinos and Rambouillets; three-eighths blood and quarter-blood by medium-wool sheep, such as Shropshires, Hampshires and Oxfords; low quarter-blood by the coarsest of medium-wool sheep and grade coarse-wool sheep, and braid by high-grade, or purebred, coarse-wool sheep, such as Coltswold, Lincolns, and Leicesters.

The grade "fine" is the finest and "half-blood" the coarsest of what is commonly called fine wool, that is, half-Blood wool is coarser than the finest of Merino or Rambouillet wool, but finer than what we usually call

medium wool; "three-eighths-blood" is the finest of medium wool, and "quarter-blood" the coarsest of medium wool; "low-quarter-blood" is coarser than quarter-blood, but the finest of coarse wool, while "braid" is very coarse and "common" is intermediate in fineness between low quarter-blood and braid.

Where To Get Information

The following publication may be obtained free of charge from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Farmers' Bulletin 576 - Breeds of Sheep for Farm.

The following publication may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C., for fifteen cents per copy.

U.S.D.A. Bulletin 206 - Woolgrower and Wool Trade